



State Representative Robert Cole Sprague
83rd House District

State Representative Anthony DeVitis
36th House District

Sponsor Testimony

House Bill 42

Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee

February 21, 2017

Chair Young, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 42.

The State of Ohio has a long history of being home to companies that manufacture tires. The City of Akron is known as the Rubber City Capital of the World, and Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, located in Findlay, continues to be the fifth largest tire manufacturer in North America. Although tires can become severely worn or unsafe, there is nothing in Ohio statute that prevents the installation of unsafe used tires.

House Bill 42 prohibits the installation of unsafe used tires on vehicles that operate on public roads. The introduced version of House Bill 42 defines “unsafe used tires” as tires:

- worn to $\frac{2}{32}$ of an inch tread depth or less;
- with any damage exposing the reinforcing plies, including: cuts, cracks, punctures, scrapes, or wear;
- with a repair to the sidewall, bead area, tread shoulder or belt edge area;
- with a puncture that has not been both sealed or patched on the inside and repaired with a stem through the outside;
- with evidence of prior use of a temporary tire sealant, without evidence of a subsequent tire repair;
- with a defaced or removed United States Department of Transportation Tire Identification Number;
- with inner liner or bead damage; or

- with any indication of internal separation, such as: bulges or local areas of irregular tread wear.

Under this legislation, installing an “unsafe used tire” may be considered an unconscionable consumer sales act. In addition, anyone that negligently violates the prohibition on the installation of unsafe used tires shall be fined not more than \$1,000. The requirements of the bill do not apply to temporarily removing tires from a vehicle and reinstalling them on the same vehicle.

Currently, Ohioans cannot legally drive with unsafe tires on their cars. This bill will ensure that motorists are not having unsafe tires installed on their vehicles, but it does not address the sale of tires.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important bill. We are happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.